

REMARKS

In the May 9, 2001 office action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show all features that were claimed in claim 2. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 112 for the reasons stated on pages 2-3 of the office action. As to the merits, original claims 1-7 were rejected as being anticipated by WO 95/30585 to "Wheaton"; original claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected as being anticipated by USP 4,579,260 to "Young" and also by USP 4,274,548 to "Schnieder"

Claims 1-7 have been canceled to overcome all rejections and objections. New claims 8-26 are being submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

Amendments to the Drawings

Fig. 1 has been amended to add reference numerals to point out the side surfaces and the rounded corners.

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph on page 1 has been amended to correct spelling and grammatical errors.

The new paragraph added on page 4 describes the side walls and the rounded corners, as seen in original Fig. 1. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by these changes.

Amendments to the Claims

Each of the independent claims is directed to a barrel having four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces. In this context, "substantially identically shaped" refers to the fact that for storage purposes, the barrels have four-way symmetry from the side, thereby allowing a barrel to be placed in abutment with other such barrels without regard to which of its four sides faces in any particular direction. It is noted, however, that the side surfaces may differ in such characteristics as raised lettering, insignia, or other features that do not affect this 'storage' property.

Rejection over the Prior art

USP 4,579,260 to Young is directed to a blow-molded container. However, Young's container has "one pair of side walls 24 having a substantially longer horizontal extent than the other pair of shorter side walls 26." (Col. 3, lines 50-52). In addition, Young does not disclose

convex side walls. Therefore, Young does not disclose a barrel having “four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces” as recited in pending independent claims 8, 18 and 22.

USP 4,274,548 to Schneider discloses a blow-molded storage tank “basically of a parallelepiped shape. Each tank has two parallel side walls 11 and 12, which have the greatest surface dimensions, two parallel end walls 13 and 14, a base 15 and top surface 16.” (Col. 4, lines 34-37, also Fig. 2). In addition, Schneider does not disclose convex side walls. Therefore, Schneider, too, does not disclose a barrel having “four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces” as recited in pending independent claims 8, 18 and 22.

WO 95/30585 is directed to a container for holding pressurized fluid, the container comprising injected molded components that have been welded together. As discussed in the second paragraph on page 1 of this reference, “a blow-moulded keg of thermoplastics material may have only a low working pressure and may be susceptible to a volume increase under pressurisation.” Accordingly, WO 95/30585 does not disclose a “blow-molded barrel” along the lines of the present invention. Fig. 4 of this reference shows a square-shaped cross-sectional view of a barrel having openings 23, 24¹ and ribs 25 along the side walls. It is noted, however, that the side walls are straight and not convex, as recited in pending independent claims 8, 18 and 22.

With respect to all claims not specifically mentioned, it is submitted that these are patentable not only by virtue of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

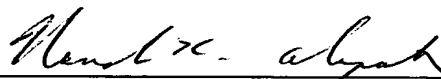
Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 8-26 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the prior art of record. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application may proceed to issue.

No fee is believed to be due for the changes to the claims. Should a fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP's Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

¹ The openings 23, 24 cannot be formed in a blow-molded barrel.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A**MARKED UP PARAGRAPHS IN AMENDMENT FILED November 8, 2001****Paragraph at page 1, lines 6-9**

Large-volume containers exhibit a capacity (filling volume) of [a] approximately 100 liters or more [und] and are used in their tight-sealed barrel embodiment for storing and transporting liquid contents and in the loose lid embodiment preferably for receiving solid, particle-shaped or pasty contents (e.g. rubble, granulate, powders, pastes, etc.).

New paragraph at page 4, after line 13:

As seen in the top view of Fig. 1, the barrel body has four substantially identically shaped, outwardly bowed or convex side surfaces 24a, 24b, 24c and 24d, each side surface being connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners 26a, 26b, 26c and 26d. The convex side surfaces and the rounded corners impart an approximately square-shaped cross-section to the barrel body which allows better use of floor space on a pallet.

APPENDIX C**MARKED UP CLAIMS IN AMENDMENT filed November 8, 2001**

- 8. (New) A blow-molded barrel comprising:
a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each
side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners, wherein
the convex side surfaces and the rounded corners impart an approximately square-shaped
cross-section to the barrel body.
9. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising at least
one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.
10. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 9, wherein the at least one
horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.
11. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 9, wherein the at least one
horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop.
12. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 11, wherein the thickened
mold hoop is formed by a stamping-out process.
13. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 11, wherein the thickened
mold hoop sticks out from the barrel body.
14. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 13, wherein the thickened
mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.
15. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising an upper
wall connected to said four side surfaces.

16. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 15, further comprising first and second side bungs, each side bung formed on the upper wall adjacent oppositely facing first and second side surfaces.

17. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 8, further comprising a foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor.

18. (New) A blow-molded barrel comprising:
a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners;
a foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor;
an upper wall provided with first and second side bungs formed adjacent oppositely facing first and second of said four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces; and
at least one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.

19. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 18, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.

20. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 18, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop which sticks out from the barrel body.

21. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 20, wherein the thickened mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.

22. (New) A barrel comprising:
a barrel body defined by four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces, each side surface connected to two adjacent side surfaces at rounded corners;

a foot hoop extending around a circumference of the barrel, the foot hoop configured to allow rolling of the barrel on a floor; and

at least one horizontal stiffening element that runs along a circumference of the barrel body.

23. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, further comprising an upper wall provided with first and second side bungs formed adjacent oppositely facing first and second of said four substantially identically shaped, convex side surfaces.

24. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element is a V-shaped molded piece that is open toward the outside.

25. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 22, wherein the at least one horizontal stiffening element comprises a thickened mold hoop which sticks out from the barrel body.

26. (New) The blow-molded barrel according to claim 25, wherein the thickened mold hoop is provided at a level that is about 43% of a height of the barrel.--